



Saguaro National Park News Release

12-21

For Immediate Release

March 6, 2012

Contact: Natalie Luna Rose at (520) 733-8602

SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK PROPOSES CONVERSION OF THE HOPE CAMP TRAIL TO A MULTI-USE TRAIL

Tucson, AZ – The National Park Service (NPS) is proposing to designate the Hope Camp Trail as a bicycle route, or multi-use trail, within Saguaro National Park. The rule is necessary because NPS general regulations require promulgation of a special regulation to designate bicycle routes located off park roads and outside developed areas.

The Hope Camp Trail is a 2.8 mile long hiking and equestrian trail that originates at the Camino Loma Alta Trailhead, and travels east through the southwestern portion of the Park's Rincon Mountain District (Saguaro East) to the park's boundary approximately .2 miles south of Hope Camp. Beyond Hope Camp, the trail connects with the Arizona Trail, and continues south into the Rincon Valley.

The Hope Camp Trail lies on lands acquired by the NPS in the 1990's. Prior to becoming a portion of Saguaro National Park, the land was part of a privately-owned ranch, and the trail was a graded dirt road used to support ranching operations.

In 2009 Saguaro National Park completed a Comprehensive Trails Management Plan and Environmental Assessment. That plan's selected alternative called for the conversion of the Hope Camp Trail to a multi-use trail, including bicycling. The route is not within potential, proposed, recommended or designated wilderness.

The National Park Service welcomes public participation in the rulemaking process. The proposed rule was published in the Federal Register on March 3, 2012. To view the proposed rule, go to <http://www.regulations.gov>; enter Saguaro National Park into the search box. The public comment period is open for 60-days. Comments must be received by May 1, 2012. Comments may be submitted, identified by the Regulation Identifier Number (RIN) 1024-AE08, by any of the following methods:

- Federal Rulemaking portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- Mail or hand-deliver to: Superintendent, Saguaro National Park, 3693 South Old Spanish Trail, Tucson, AZ 85730-5601.

For further information, please contact Bob Love, the park's Chief Ranger, at (520) 591-1013.

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